



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters

June 2011

Potters Invade Tomales Bay



Surprise, Six and Dan

Photo by Don Person

By Don Person

Getting to Tomales Bay from the south is always a choice. Avoiding the traffic through San Rafael, San Anselmo and Fairfax makes an easier trip. This time I took 101 north to Lucas Valley Rd., then west to Nicasio Valley Rd. The drive around Nicasio Reservoir is easy and scenic. The road ends at the Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Highway. Take a left and continue to Pt. Reyes Station. Follow Highway 1 three miles past Marshall to Nick's Cove and Miller Park. Miller Park is a sharp left at the bottom of a dip in the road. On weekends the paved parking lot next to the ramp fills up with fishermen and kayakers. The overflow dirt parking, up the hill just behind the paved lot, is tricky but usually has some space. Arriving Friday or early Saturday is a good option.

Dan Phy, Monty 17, Jim Kirwan, Monty 15, and Brad Evans, Vanguard 17, were rigged when Sarah Anne, my P15, and I arrived about eight Friday morning. Thursday afternoon when they pulled in it was so windy they elected to postpone launching and to spend the night on their boats. By a little after nine AM we were all on the water under overcast skies with a very light wind.

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We sail/drifted toward Hog Island as the wind began to build and turned south into a two knot breeze. The wind continued to increase and we sailed back and forth and up and down the bay for several hours. By early afternoon the wind was in the twelve knot plus range, the chop was making upwind sailing pretty bumpy and the white caps were everywhere. Reefing was now the order of the day

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The Commodore's Log

Have you ever seen weather like this? We have lived in the area for the last 35 years and in that time I don't remember any like it. Who would have thought we would have to postpone Woodward at the beginning of June because of

rain and COLD. When you receive this newsletter Woodward 2011 will be history. I think Mother Nature is going to smile on us, the last forecast I have seen for Oakdale on Saturday is mixed sun and clouds with a temperature of 85 degrees.

Once again I missed Tomales Bay. I can't wait to read this newsletter to see how it went. Hopefully I will not miss

Erick's Tomales Bay sail later this year.

We are just over a month away from this years Cruiser Challenge, the web site is up, thanks Pat, and folks are signing up. Come join us for a great weekend in Monterey.

We have no new members for the month of May.

See you on the water,

Bud

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

6/25,26	Eagle Lake	Don Person
~~~~	Fourth of July Overnight	~Cancelled~
7/23,24	Cruiser Challenge XII	Gretchen Ricker/Race Committee
8/27, 28	Benicia Two-Day Sail	Jim Gossman
8/6	Richmond Day Sail	Rich McDevitt
8/20, 21	Huntington Lake camp out with SoCal Potters	Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson



Organized in Northern California in 1978, the **Potter Yachters** is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to owners of West Wight Potters and anyone interested in Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sailboats.

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Don making waves

Photo by Jerry Higgins

During the day Dave Myers and Spice in their P15 Salty Dog joined us. They planned on tent camping so beached at Marshall Cove. Jerry Higgins in his Bullseye Lia had made the trip and sailed with us for a while. Rob Sampson in his Ranger tug Mud-Hen appeared after noon and stayed with us.

Anchors were set and the group rafted up for snacks and fluids in Sacramento Cove which is about two miles south of Miller Park on the bay's western shore. The cove gave very little protection and the boats were rocking and rolling so we separated. Dan, Brad and Rob set their hooks a few hundred feet apart. Jim and Don pounded north the 1/2 mile to join the Meyers in Marshall Cove. No one had brought firewood so we all cocooned

in our boats. Everyone made it through the night relatively comfortably. The anchored boats needed two anchors, bow and stern to steady them. By morning the wind had dropped and it was calm.

After coffee and cereal Jim pulled anchor and motored down to join Dan, Brad and Rob. Don and Dave were well beached about fifteen feet above the tide line. Dave shoved Salty Dog into the water and they motored away. Don tried for about an hour to move Sarah Anne but she wouldn't budge. The tide was rising but not enough to float her. Jim noticed what was going on, anchored and kayaked in. He pointed out that the centerboard was not all the way up. (Grin) Down only about four inches it made the boat feel as



Brad, Jim, Don

Photo: Dan Phy

if it were set in concrete. Finally, with the added help of Dan who had joined them, Sarah Anne was floated and away. If beaching your boat, make sure the centerboard is ALL the way up.

By mid morning the wind was five or six knots and stayed that way all day. Pleasant, interesting sailing. Although the heavy overcast slowly gave way to filtered sunshine it was definitely colder than Friday. As they had the day before, Dan, Jim, Brad and Don sailed over most of the bay and did a lot of exploring along the edges. Rob covered a lot of territory in Mud-Hen and brought back some very good wildlife photographs. Jerry sailed by a few times but left us for his own ad-



Don, Jim, Dan raft up, Sacramento Cove

Photo: Rob Sampson

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*The Potter Yachter* (Tomales: continued from page 3)

venture at the head of the bay.

By mid-afternoon we once more had rafted up in Sacramento Cove, this time in much calmer conditions. After a leisurely hour of recounting experiences and fortified by more snacks and warm drinks courtesy of Dan Phy we were all quite relaxed. Unfortunately commitments at home dictated that it was time for me to leave. It was



Jerry and the elegant Lia

Photo: Don Person



Surprise anchored in the morning mist- Sacramento Cove  
Photo: Rob Sampson

difficult to leave such a pleasant, sociable scene. On the way out of the cove I sailed past a good sized flock of Short Billed Dowitchers probing the mud at the shoreline.



Short billed Dowitchers

Photo: Don Person



Jim K preparing to set sail

Photo: Rob Sampson



Jim Kirwan, Don Person, Brad Evans

Photo: Dan Phy



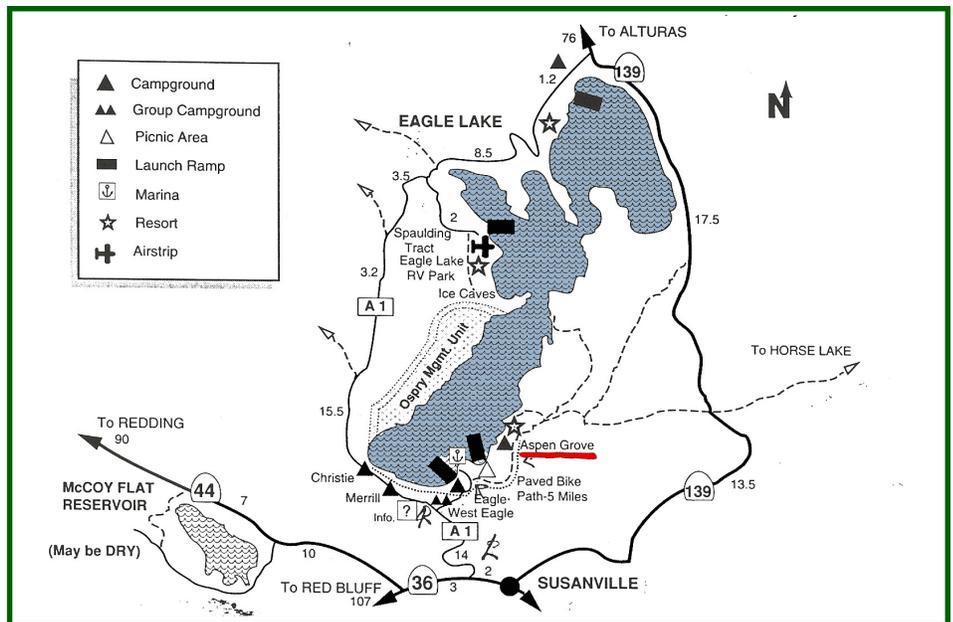
# Eagle Lake Camp-out and Sail

June 25 and 26, 2011



The Eagle Lake Potter Yachter weekend is June 25 and 26. Some of us will be arriving as early as the 21st. Eagle Lake is a secluded 14 mile long by 4 mile wide spectacular high Sierra lake. It is in the northeast corner of our state. The camp area is at the southern end and served by the Eagle Lake Marina, well stocked store, showers and laundry facilities. The water level is up and the launch area and channel is now four feet deep. Travel is either I5 to Red Bluff then east on St. Hwy 36 through Chester to Co. Hwy A1 or I 80 to Reno, north on st. Hwy 395 to Susanville and on to St. Hwy 36 to Co. Hwy A1. It is about a five hour drive from San Francisco, so if possible a stay of a few days is encouraged. The camp grounds are on Lassen National

Forest and well signed and maintained. Most of the Potters tent-camp in Aspen campground where only tent camping is allowed. There are tables and fire pits, running potable water and flush toilets at the campground. This is a scenic spot among tall pines with beautiful views of the lake. No reservations are taken. The fee is \$18 per night per site each of which may hold eight people. Those of us who arrive early hold some space for later arrivals. There are other camp grounds for RVers a mile or so away. The temperature can range from the forties at night to the mid eighties during the day. There are slips for small boats at the marina and I strongly advise re-



serving one. Call Eagle Lake Marina (530) 625-3454. The sailing is usually excellent. The southern wind commonly builds through the day to around eight knots in the mid afternoon. Eagle Lake trout are famous and fishing is encouraged. Licenses are available at the marina. This is just a wonderful place for those who enjoy the outdoors and sailing. If any questions feel free to e-mail <[dnjperson@comcast.net](mailto:dnjperson@comcast.net)> or phone (925) 846-6972.



Photo and details courtesy of Duckworks Boatbuilder's Supply



S.C.A.M.P. (Small Craft Advisor Magazine Project)

Original Designer: John Welsford  
Additional Development: Kees Prins  
Kit Adaptations: Turn Point Design

As many of you know Dan Phy has undertaken to build a boat – a John Welsford-designed Scamp. It is reputed to be even smaller and cuter than the P-15. Dan reports that the project is complete and the boat is ready to be christened. All interested parties are invited to attend this solemn (and you know that if Dan Phy is involved it will be solemn) event on Wednesday, June 15. The christening will take place at 10:00 AM at the Grand Street ramp in Alameda.

Pat Brennan

Secretary/Treasurer, Potter Yachters

Alas!

The Delta 4th of July houseboat will not be available. The event is cancelled.



Dan Phy anchored out on Tomales Bay, riding out a short hailstorm.

Photo by Rob Sampson

# Cruiser Challenge XII

It's just around the corner!

Are you ready?

Hello everyone,  
Cruiser Challenge is building steam. This year's event will take place on July 23rd and 24th. The sponsors are lining up and things are coming together. I just opened up a Facebook and Twitter site for the event in case you want to stay up to date on happenings.

See ya there!

Gretchen Ricker  
Organizer  
Cruiser Challenge XII  
805 674-1278

Register Here!



Follow us on:



Wes Harrison

**POTTER YACHTERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
MONTEREY CA. JULY 23-24 2011

## Brandy with Sandy

By Steve Potter



The Richmond Harbor to China Camp day sail has been an event of the Potters going back to the 80's. It was August 7th of 2010 at Richmond Harbor, when we were told at the skippers meeting that the tide would be with us going to China Camp, change at around noon and be with us on our return trip to Richmond. The winds should be light in the morning and pick up quite a bit in the afternoon.

It took about six tacks to get out of Richmond Harbor, but once in the Bay, it was one long port tack to China Camp. We arrived around noon and spent a good hour and a half on the wind-protected lee-shore beach. Most people brown bagged it, but a few ate at the snack shop. A lot of us, including our Sail Host, Keith Hubbard, noticed that sailboats about a mile off the beach were heeling over quite a bit. The decision was made to leave before the wind got any stronger.

The majority of the fleet headed southeast in the direction of Richmond. The tide was with them, but the wind was strong and wave action was against them, preventing them from sailing directly to Richmond. A couple of intrepid sailors decided to take the less bouncy Western rout hugging the lee shore of Marin County with the intention of sailing in the relatively calmer waters of the San Rafael flats. The two were Don Person and Steve Potter in their P-15's. After 45 minutes, Dave White in his P-19, who found it a bit rough in the middle of the Bay and wanted some company, joined them. The rest of the fleet was out of sight. Looking through binoculars was not an option because of the safety factor. We later found that most had dropped their sails and motored toward Richmond, which made them virtually invisible over a mile away. (See *The Potter Yachter* Newsletter, September 2010.)

We were making good progress with reefed sails until we rounded Point San Pablo and got blasted by wind gusting to 25 mph and building waves coming out of the San Rafael Channel area. Progress was a bit slower and we were really getting pounded when all of a sudden, from out of the middle of the Bay motored a P-15 with a huge bow wave. It was Goose Gossman in his highly modified P-15 with a 15-horse Honda. Apparently he was concerned about our safety. Within a few minutes someone else pulled by who was concerned about our safety, the Marin County Sheriff Patrol Boat. Goose did a good job of assuring them that we were in good shape, and they went on their way. Progress in the direction of the San Rafael canal was so slow, we agreed to motor into Loch Lomond harbor to take a breather and get into some dry cloths.

It was around 4:00 PM when we tied up at the guest dock. We figured it would be sunset by the time we got back to Richmond. Someone suggested we take a taxi back to Richmond, pick-up our cars and trailers, return and haul out at Loch Lomond. Dave said he had an overnight slip at Richmond and needed to motor/sail back. Steve said, "I have a brother who lives about 15 minutes away. He could run us back to Richmond!" A call was made, but his brother Ron wasn't home, (took the dog for a run) but his wife Sandy was there. Steve told her that we were cold and wet, and needed a lift. She said she would be there shortly. We said Farwell to Dave, got into some dry cloths, stowed our sails and locked-up our boats. We were huddled in the parking lot near the ramp for a few minutes when Sandy rolled in. Believing we were soaked she gave us towels. She then brought out a tray of cheese, crackers, nuts and three small plastic cups. Then out came the bottle of

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(Sandy, continued from page 8)

brandy. Don and Goose extended their arms getting their ration. Steve was a bit hesitant. "That stuff is a little nasty tasting," he said, but after a little prodding he accepted. He later said, "When your cold to the bone and shivering, this stuff tastes like liquid candy." Brandy with Sandy was a true delight!

Sandy wasted no time getting us on the road, through San Rafael and onto the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, where we looked down to see Dave motoring toward Richmond at a good clip. Sandy was curious to know how we wound-up at Loch Lomond when we were supposed to go to Richmond. From then on it was non-stop excited conversation all the way to the marina parking lot. Everybody had a smile on their face including Sandy. What a neat lady! We had secretly taken up a collection for bridge toll and gas, which she eventually accepted. Sandy took off to fix dinner for her poor neglected husband.

The three of us formed a caravan and drove back to Loch Lomond. Like clockwork, and without any previous discussion, one vehicle with trailer went down the ramp while the other two sailors untied his boat from the dock and guided it onto the trailer. Up the ramp it went, and within seconds the next car and trailer came down the ramp. When all three boats were in the parking lot, the masts came down and within a matter of minutes the tie down straps were on and secured. We were ready to roll.

What could have been a cold and miserable end to a Potter sailing event, turned out to be one of the happiest times ever, thanks to common sense, good seamanship, and most importantly, ... Sandy.



Sandy has been fighting cancer for about five years, and now has a serious case of intestinal cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sandy, a Potterer at heart.





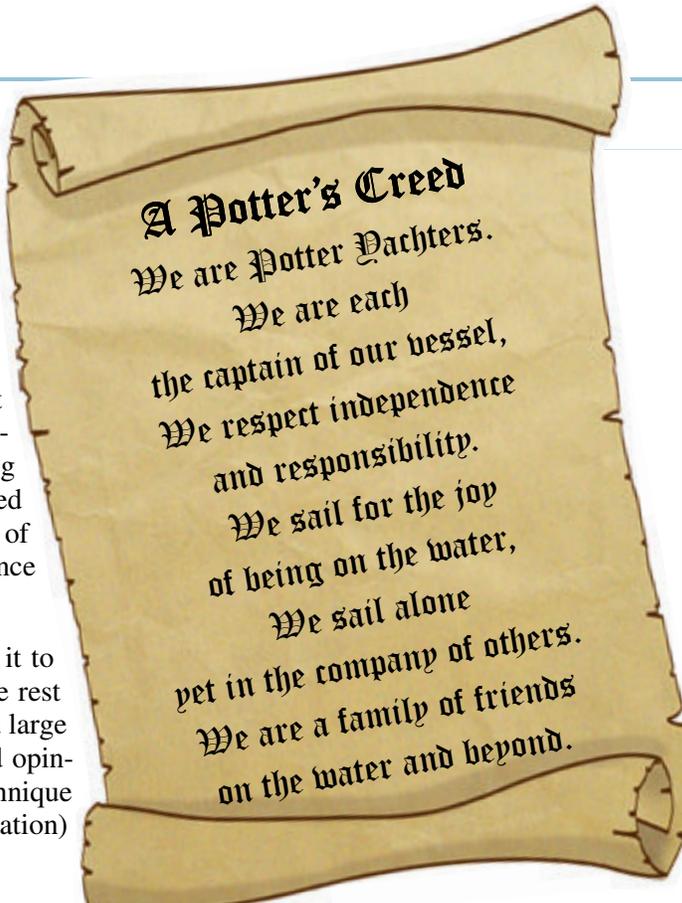
Patrick Brennan  
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## With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the Potter Yachter that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal experience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication)  
- *The Editor*



**A Potter's Creed**  
We are Potter Yachters.  
We are each  
the captain of our vessel,  
We respect independence  
and responsibility.  
We sail for the joy  
of being on the water,  
We sail alone  
yet in the company of others.  
We are a family of friends  
on the water and beyond.